

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pinehurst, North Carolina

1920 - 1970

A PERSONAL HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

by

Mrs. W. H. Cole

A very faint, light gray watermark image of a church interior is visible in the background. It shows rows of wooden pews facing a pulpit area with a cross on the wall.

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PREFACE

Fifty years is a brief period of time when one thinks of the long history of the Christian Church. Anniversary celebrations, I suppose, may properly be held each year, with special emphasis upon the tenth, the twenty-fifth, and the fiftieth. The centennial surely would demand a measure of pomp and circumstance, increasing thereafter as local traditions took on more of the fine qualities only age can produce.

Perhaps we in the Pinehurst Church have been delinquent in observing birth-days. I have been pastor for twenty-eight of the fifty years, and cannot recall any particular fuss being made, even on the 25th anniversary. On the other hand, perhaps we have not been delinquent at all, since Mrs. W. H. Cole has been doing a creditable job as historian for many years.

One of three charter members still on the church roll, Mrs. Cole had stuck away little items, kept track of records, of people and events, and maintained a close tie with the past in relating it to the present. So she was well qualified to be author of this history, and we are indebted to her, not only for preserving the records, but also for writing this particular story. She tells it "like it was," and has captured the flavor, the ideas, the rationale of this church at its birth.

To me, there is a touch of individuality, even quaintness, that is foreign to most of us. Of course, each church has its own recognizable characteristics, varying upon occasion yet somehow maintaining a kinship. Some of us never knew a church which integrated community social life with the usual worship-education program to the degree done in Pinehurst during the twenties and thirties. People did not sleep at the church, but they did a lot of eating, a lot of living, finding joy and satisfaction there. Of course, the church is not like that anymore. Perhaps we would be richer if it were.

Any writing of history is subjective. Some would have left out some of what is included, others wonder why some important details were omitted. Each person simply has to pick and choose.

Fifty years hence, a documented account may be in order. Whoever is given that job will be grateful to Mrs. Cole, as we are today.

R. L. Prince
Pastor since 1942



Miss Fannie B. Gray
1912

Organized first Church School
in Public School house in 1908.



EARLY DAYS

1908 - 1924

In the early days of Pinehurst, the village was just emerging from a forest of pines. Deer roamed freely through its streets looking for food provided by the few families who were permanent residents.

It was the year 1908, and Miss Fannie B. Gray arrived from Winchendon, Massachusetts to make her home here. She was employed by Mr. Leonard Tufts, President of Pinehurst, Incorporated (as cashier at the General Office, a position she filled for many years.) Her strong Christian character influenced not only the secular business world but religious life of the village, especially the lives of young children. Her life, the embodiment of unselfishness and generosity throughout the years, her beautiful Christian spirit, her radiant personality and her constant devotion to her family, church and friends made an indelible impression on every one with whom she came in contact. She was one of the most loyal supporters of the church, wise in counsel, faithful in attendance, humble in spirit, gracious and kind. She taught the kindergarten and served as treasurer and historian of the Women of the Church until 1947. She died in 1952.

It was due largely to the Christian influence of this tiny, devoted woman that we have a Community Church in Pinehurst today. Recognizing the need of the children in the village she, with the help of Mr. John McQueen, also an officer of Pinehurst, Incorporated, started a Sunday School in the small public school building which was situated on the hill just above the spot where the riding stable is now located. First the children, then the parents, gathered there every Sunday for worship and study. From time to time, visiting ministers conducted worship services. As more families moved into the village, attendance increased until the little school house was crowded and more room had to be found. The Sunday School had four departments; the adult class included both men and women.

Miss Fannie talked with Mr. Tufts about the need for adequate facilities. They interested others who began making plans for a suitable building, in which classes and worship services could be held.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tufts donated the land and helped with building expenses. The Rev. T. A. Cheatham, a minister of the Episcopal Church serving the non-sectarian Village Chapel, was available for consultation and assistance. All the people worked hard in behalf of this cause. A Ladies Aid Society was formed and proceeds from rummage sales, ice cream suppers and local talent shows were added to the building fund.

The new building was called *The Community House*. It now houses the Fire Department, next door to the Little Club. It was used for all community gatherings as well as religious services. Dr. Cheatham preached many Sunday evenings and was available for pastoral care. The building was completed in 1917. The Sunday School was transferred to it, with attendance increasing steadily.

The Pastor of Bensalem, Culdee and Elise Presbyterian churches, the Rev. W. L. Wilson, began presching in the Community House in June of 1917 once a month. The services were well attended but the congregation varied because of the transient nature of the resort village. As time passed more people worked in the village the entire year and soon were attending Sunday School in the new Community House.

It is common knowledge in this section that Mr. Wilson walked to Pinehurst from Culdee Church to fill his appointment, and on several occasions walked from here back to Hemp (now Robbins), a distance of twenty-five miles. How well he succeeded in his efforts is the fact that just three years from the time he preached his first sermon he helped organize a church. This is a tribute to the character and faithfulness of the man.

A petition to organize a church in Pinehurst was presented to Fayetteville Presbytery at its spring meeting in Maxton, North Carolina, April 1920. Presbytery approved and a commission was appointed for that purpose. The petition was signed by the following: F. T. Currie, M. A. Wicker, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McKenzie, D. F. Currie, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burkholder, Mrs. Jesse Newell, George A. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Burkholder, Cary McDonald, Mrs. Robert Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Will Wicker, Mrs. Mary A. Black, Mrs. L. V. O'Callaghan, Casper McDonald, Mrs. F. T. Currie, Henry McDonald, A. C. McDonald, Mrs. Margaret Ray Bilyew. Of these only Mrs. Robert Shaw and Cary McDonald are now living.

According to the church records, the Commission met in the Community House on June 15, 1920, with the Rev. V. R. Gaston as chairman and Ruling Elder M. C. McDonald of West End, Secretary. A revival meeting was in progress with Dr. O. G. Jones, Synodical Evangelist preaching. The church was organized with the following Charter Members:

F. T. Currie	George A. Woods
Mrs. F. T. Currie	Thorn Mosher
A. C. McDonald	Miss Cassie May Frye
Mrs. Jessie Newell	Miss Bessie Jones
M. A. Wicker	Mrs. Mary A. Black
Hugh McKenzie	Mrs. Callie Black O'Callaghan
Mrs. Hugh McKenzie	D. Frank Currie
Eugene McKenzie	Mrs. John C. Burkholder
Mrs. Eugene McKenzie	Will C. Wicker
Mrs. Will Wicker	Henry McDonald
Mrs. Robert Shaw	D. P. McDonald
Mrs. Hulon Cole	Mrs. D. P. McDonald
Mrs. Margaret Ray Bilyew	Frank P. Burkholder
Miss Fannie B. Gray	John C. Burkholder

The first officers of the church were: Elders — F. T. Currie, A. C. McDonald; Deacons — George A. Woods, Frank Burkholder and Will Wicker.

Mr. Wilson served the church as Stated Supply until November 15, 1923. During his ministry fifty-nine persons were added to the church roll. How securely he

laid the foundation of the organization is best seen in the progress which was made from the very beginning. The fact that his efforts had succeeded so well made him realize that a full time minister was needed and he offered his resignation, which was accepted.

On August 6, 1923, with the assistance of the Rev. C. G. Vardell, D. D. and the Rev. Letcher Smith, Superintendent of Home Missions of Fayetteville Presbytery, a full time minister for the Pinehurst Church was called. On November 15, 1923, the Rev. George W. Hanna and his family arrived from Crawfordsville, Iowa. Mr. Hanna became the first full time minister of the church. Mrs. Hanna and the girls, Rachel, Emily and Sarah, entered into all the activities of the young church. Mrs. Hanna was a welcome visitor in homes where there were illness and small children. Her bowls of good, hot soup, and loaves of home made bread helped many a tired mother get much-needed rest. Nurses, and even doctors being almost unavailable at this time, Mrs. Hanna often sat up nights with patients who required constant care. Mr. Hanna resigned on May 28, 1924. Though he was with the church only a little more than six months, thirty were added to the church roll and the financial condition greatly improved. It was with keen disappointment that the congregation accepted his resignation. He went to Antioch Presbyterian Church near Raeford, serving there many years.

The women of the congregation were outstanding in their service and formed an Auxiliary. On June 23, 1922, Mrs. J. R. Page, Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Graham from Aberdeen helped in the organization. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Robert Shaw; Vice-President, Mrs. John Burkholder; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Fannie B. Gray. They were installed on July 2, 1922, by the Rev. W. L. Wilson. Miss Gray served until 1947, resigning because of ill health. Meetings were held once a month on Sunday nights for the study and discussion of missions. In 1923 regular meetings were held on Tuesday nights. As the membership increased there was a division into circles. Later the Auxiliary became *The Women of the Church*.

During the year following Mr. Hanna's resignation, the Rev. Letcher Smith arranged for the pulpit to be filled. He secured the Rev. C. E. Clarke of Carthage and the Rev. G. E. Mason of Hemp as supply ministers for one sermon a month until a pastor could be called. Though he met with obstacles sufficient to deter many men from further effort, Mr. Smith continued undismayed for he had great faith in the church he had helped to organize. It was the vision of this man of God that caused a young theological student in Union Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, to see that there were untold possibilities in the Pinehurst Church and to accept the call to become its pastor.



Dr. W. Murdock MacLeod

II

1925 - 1933

On March 22, 1925, the Rev. George W. Hanna moderated a congregational meeting which extended a call to William Murdoch MacLeod to become pastor of the church. This call was accepted and he arrived on the field May 15, 1925. He was ordained and installed as Pastor of the Pinehurst Church on May 31, 1925.

His father, the late Murdoch MacLeod, a Ruling Elder, and his uncle, W. J. Currie, also a Ruling Elder, of Maxton, North Carolina, were on the Commission of Fayetteville Presbytery. The ministers of the Commission were Dr. W. M. Fairly, the Rev. George W. Hanna and Dr. W. E. Hill, who preached the sermon.

The church ministered to a small group for a number of years. It became obvious that if this church, the only all year Protestant Church Organization in the area, were to meet the needs of a whole community, it would have to broaden its program. This was done in such a Christian way that people of all denominations soon found within its doors a fellowship that made them feel at home. The result was a tremendous increase in interest, enrollment and usefulness. The church at this time had a total membership of 307 and a Sunday School enrollment of 330.

Mrs. MacLeod worked with the young people. She organized the first business girls' circle in the Auxiliary and accompanied them on retreats to Lake Waccamaw where they received helpful instruction. Mr. MacLeod was one of the organizers of the youth conferences at Flora Macdonald College.

Mrs. Suttonfield, who was in charge of Young People's work in the Presbytery, organized in 1923 a Christian Endeavor Society which became very active in the church. They met Sunday evenings and, under the guidance of very able advisors, studied different phases of the church's work. While Mr. MacLeod was pastor, they met in the Ladies' Parlor for their programs. Afterwards, Mr. MacLeod preached. The room was often filled to capacity and all enjoyed the hour of fellowship together.

The first clothing from the Auxiliary was sent to Barium Springs Orphanage in 1923. One child was chosen to support until graduation. The child-like letters of appreciation were very interesting to the women. Later, money was sent — not only for clothing but Christmas presents and birthday gifts. Larry Marlow lived at the Orphanage from 1924 - 1932. He was joined by his sister, Bobby, in 1932. She was cared for until graduation. The Women of the Church still contribute to the clothing fund and send special gifts.

The manse was purchased in 1926. The Auxiliary assumed part of the debt and helped in special showers for needed extras which the MacLeods greatly appreciated. While living in the Manse the MacLeods were blessed with the birth of two daughters, Dorothy (now the wife of the Rev. William Klein), and Jane, who later married Milton Meyers Clinseur. They were a great joy to the entire church family and have kept in touch through the years.

Mr. MacLeod was a *Builder for God*. Under his leadership, the church grew to the point that a larger building became imperative. He inspired support from the



Sandhill Brotherhood
May 1929



Old Manse



Laying of Cornerstone
1929

congregation and from the church's many friends in building a new church. Pinehurst, Incorporated donated the lots. Building plans were drawn up and carried out.

The corner stone of the Pinehurst Community Church was laid on Sunday afternoon, March 2, 1929. It was a time of great rejoicing for all. The Sandhill's Choir sang *Unfold Ye Portals*. The Rev. T. A. Cheatham spoke on *Unity*. Mr. Richard Tufts represented the community; Mr. MacLeod gave a historical sketch; and Mr. Homer Johnson gave the address. It was with joy and thankfulness that the congregation's dream of a permanent church was about to be realized.

The building, nestling among picturesque pines in the vicinity of the public school and Moore Memorial Hospital, is ideally situated to serve the community. Colonial in architectural style, it is a building in which the town may take pride. Classroom accommodations are ample for over two hundred.

Brick walkways were given by S. B. Chapin; pulpit and communion furniture in memory of John Martin Jamison, Jr. by his parents; The Billy Lewis Scout Hall by Mrs. Leonard Tufts in memory of her grandson; the pastor's furniture by Mr. W. W. Fuller; the Aeolian Pipe Organ by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Young Ramage in memory of their son. Lt. Alfred Hull Ramage.

At last it was all completed and the eventful Sunday came when the first service was held on September 7, 1930. The day was beautiful. Members and friends gathered in the sanctuary to the strains of *Serenade* by Flagler. The Choir sang *How Firm a Foundation*. The choir and congregation joined in singing, *Come, Thou Almighty King*. The sermon, *The Challenge of this Day*, was delivered by Mr. MacLeod.

It was a glorious and meaningful service. After the benediction, many of the congregation visited the different departments of the Sunday School and met the superintendent of each — Young People, Mr. I. C. Sledge; Intermediate, Mr. G. M. Cameron; Junior, Mrs. Colin McKenzie; Primary, Mrs. T. E. Currie; Beginner, Miss Fannie Gray; Cradle Roll, Mrs. C. E. Swaringen; Brotherhood, Mr. MacLeod, teacher; Ladies, Mrs. Alex Stewart, teacher.

During the depression years of the thirties, the Men of the Church and the Sandhill Brotherhood helped meet the needs of those in distress, provided employment for those who were able to work. About two hundred people were aided by gifts or employment. The street was cleared in front of the church and the shrubbery planted at this time by those needing assistance. Money was provided for seeds for those unable to purchase them to encourage planting of vegetable gardens.

The Brotherhood established and maintained a loan fund for deserving young people of the church. Many young people were aided in their college careers.

The Woman's Auxiliary continued to help with the building fund — and also with equipment for the dining room and kitchen. Facilities were available for serving large suppers. The Auxiliary was one of the first organizations to become active in the Moore County Hospital Association. A rummage sale was sponsored each spring, the proceeds of which went to the hospital.

The church became the center for religious and social activities. The Hospital Auxiliary, the Health and Welfare Association and the Red Cross met regularly in the Ladies' Parlor. The Scouts met in the Billy Lewis Scout Hall on the ground floor of the church. The Men of the Church provided a beautiful lake and cabin about a mile from the village for boys for overnight hikes.

The Young People's organizations, under the leadership of wise advisors, were trained from their earliest years until maturity in the principles of true Christian citizenship. Their activities in social service were beneficial to them and to the community. The whole program was so planned as to enable them to fit into positions of leadership in the church and in civic affairs.

Before moving into the new church, Mr. MacLeod, and other interested persons, started a Sunday School in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie McDonald, about five miles from Pinehurst. Mr. W. P. Morton, Superintendent of Schools, and others serving as organist and teachers, met every Sunday afternoon. Mr. MacLeod usually taught the adult class while the other departments met in the bedrooms, and in the summer out under the trees. The attendance grew so fast that it became necessary to begin planning larger accommodations.

In 1934, Mr. MacLeod accepted a call from the Moore Memorial (now Westminister) Church in Nashville, Tennessee. It was with great reluctance the congregation accepted his resignation. When this news struck the Sandhills, it fell as a blow on a large part of the population. Probably no man in Southern Pines and Pinehurst was more universally liked and respected than the minister of the Pinehurst Community Church. The call to Nashville was all but a command. The Pilot wrote, *The world has always been looking for the big men and calling them when they arrive. It was to be expected that Murdock MacLeod of the Pinehurst Presbyterian Church would be catching the eye of bigger pulpits. When he goes the benediction that follows him will implore that success attend his footsteps and everybody who knows him is confident of its realization.*

Mr. MacLeod died suddenly of a heart attack in June of 1940. This news came as a tremendous shock to his many friends and former parishioners throughout Moore County. In the eulogy of his predecessor as Pastor of the Pinehurst Community Church, the Rev. A. J. McKelway said in part — *Murdock MacLeod finished his life of service in this world in his 44th year. Remembering him we are remembering a remarkable person. We remember one who has left his mark as a builder for God. We remember a preacher who spoke to people exactly where they were. He spoke not with any conscious eloquence, but with himself.*

Mrs. W. Murdoch (Dorothy S.) MacLeod, is Program Specialist, Administration on Aging, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D. C. — 1966-19_____. From 1951-1965, Mrs. MacLeod was General Director of the General Department of United Church Women, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.



Mrs. W. Murdoch (Dorothy S.) MacLeod

A. J. McKelway



III

1934 - 1941

In 1935 the Women of the Church began serving tea every Thursday afternoon from three until five. It was successful from the beginning. More and more people were coming to Pinehurst every year and there was no place to spend a quiet afternoon with friends. The inviting tea table set before the open fire was very attractive. Two or three of our women were hostesses each week. The circles prepared the refreshments. We began in early fall and continued through the winter months for several years.

Beginning in early December the women began collecting articles to put in the Christmas baskets. Usually fifty to seventy-five were filled. Each contained needed groceries, candy and fruit. Baskets for families with children included a toy for each child.

On Christmas Eve the Boy Scouts, with some parents, gathered at the church for hot chocolate and sandwiches before they left in trucks to distribute the baskets. They brought joy to many homes. The girls took bags of fruit and a small purse containing some change to the County Home dwellers. They sang carols and brought Christmas cheer to those who were so alone. Afterwards the young people went carolling around the village. It was a joyful time for all.

A trained worker was needed to work with the young people during the summer months. To help with the expense a local talent play was given, *Romance in a Boarding House*. Four performances were given, two in the Pinehurst High School Auditorium, one in Carthage and one in Vass.

Miss Kitty Carter came in June. She was wonderful with the young people and children. She had charge of the Vacation Bible School and all the young people's activities. She worked in the church for two summers and left a lasting impression on not only the youth but the entire membership.

The most outstanding work in church expansion was accomplished in the building of McDonald's Chapel in 1940. As the result of the work done by Mr. MacLeod, in organizing a Sunday School in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie McDonald, a much larger place was needed. The membership had increased until it became necessary to provide a building for worship and religious instruction. Mr. McKelway planned and worked with the local people to secure this.

Persistent, faithful work resulted in building a chapel. Gifts from friends included a reed organ and a beautiful pulpit Bible. A contribution of \$100.00 was made by the Auxiliary of the Community Church and individual contributions of time and labor were given.

As soon as the flooring was completed (late in August) the use of the building was inaugurated by a series of worship services conducted by Mr. McKelway. Seventeen persons were received into membership of the church on profession of faith and four by letter. Eight infants were presented for baptism. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McDonald, Mr. W. M. Smith, Mr. James Hartsell, Mr. Melvin Wicker, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Williams, Mr. and Mrs. George Hunt, Miss Helen Wicker, Miss Ann

Kennedy, Mr. Archie McDonald, Jr., Mr. Frank McDonald, Miss Alma McDonald, Miss Odell McDonald, Mrs. Edith Stutts, Mrs. Mary Stutts, Miss Nellie Smith, Willie Kennedy, Mrs. Odell McDonald, Mr. Datlon McDonald. Elders, Archie A. McDonald and James H. Hartsell, and deacons, George W. Hunt and Daniel P. McDonald; were local leaders, along with the building committee, George W. Hunt, James H. Hartsell and Mrs. Mary McDonald Stutts; Sunday School Superintendent Herbert T. Williams; Assistant Superintendent, Daniel P. McDonald; Secretary-Treasurer, Melvin Wicker; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Nan McKenzie McDonald.

This work represents the fruition of years of determined faithfulness on the part of the membership to provide for themselves and their children a hallowed place for worship and religious instruction. Sunday School met each week at ten o'clock. Mr. McKelway preached Sunday evenings at seven. An Easter Sunrise Service and Homecoming in September have been observed each year with special services. Two classrooms and a kitchen have been added during the years. Central heat has been installed, the sanctuary painted, new pews added and many improvements made.

The Community Church manse burned in 1941. While it was being rebuilt Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tufts took the McKelway family into their own home until a house was available. They moved into the Dr. Brown Cottage near the Village Chapel and occupied it until the manse was restored. The Auxiliary gave a linen shower and helped replace many of the things lost in the fire.

The next two years saw many changes. Suddenly we were plunged into World War II. Camp McCall was a training center for paratroopers. Maneuvers were held in a fifty mile area with men from Fort Bragg and Camp McCall participating. The Sandhills were ideal for training. In the fall, the women and men of the church set up an outdoor canteen on the Village Green where the trainees could get an inexpensive meal on Saturday nights. Mr. Leonard Tufts provided an awning under which meals were served. The Men of the Church broiled hamburgers and made coffee. The Women cooked vegetables, pies, cakes and rolls, bringing them in ready to serve. Most of the boys preferred milk, which Mr. Tufts donated from the Pinehurst Dairy.

The men came from miles around to enjoy not only the food provided but being overnight guests in many of the homes. Mr. McKelway was always available for counseling. The church was open to them. Many attended the worship services on Sunday.

A Soldiers' Lounge was opened in the Theatre Building, with girls and women of the church acting as hostesses. The men came in to write letters and enjoy coffee or cokes. Many of them wrote letters from overseas, keeping in touch with their friends made in the Community Church for many months.

Many of our boys were being sent to training camps and later into active service overseas. Three made the supreme sacrifice.

A. B. Sally, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Sally.
Melvin McCaskill, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McCaskill.
Jesse W. Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cole.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie McDonald

Sunday School at McDonald House



Mr. McKelway resigned his pastorate on April 1, 1942, to enter the Naval Chaplaincy, a position he filled with great courage, ability and distinction. After the war he became Chief of Chaplains, Veterans Administration. Mrs. McKelway and the three children, Kate, Alexander (Sandy), and Margaret moved to Davidson, North Carolina, and later to Washington, D. C.

Kate married Roelaf Copes Van Hasselt; Margaret married Jack Edward Johnson and is on the Staff of the National Geographic; Alexander married Adelaide Bullard of San Francisco.

Alexander graduated from Davidson College, Princeton Theological Seminary and earned his Doctorate at Basle, Switzerland, studying under Dr. Karl Barth. He taught at Dartmouth College for two years before going to Davidson College as Associate Professor of Religion. He has written a book, *The Systematic Theology of Paul Tillich*. Mrs. McKelway became Special Field Representative for the Board of Christian Education, Presbyterian Church U. S. She is now living in Spartanburg, South Carolina.



Mrs. McKelway



Rev. and Mrs. Roscoe L. Prince



The Prince Family

IV

1942 - 1970

The years 1942-46 brought about many changes. Many of our sons were in actual combat. A number of our valued members moved away and were greatly missed. War conditions prevailed and soldiers from Fort Bragg and Camp McCall continued to come in for weekends.

The new pastor, Roscoe L. Prince of Orancock, Virginia, arrived the first of August. His first sermon was on August 9, 1942.

Mrs. Prince, a graduate of Westminster Choir College, began working with the choirs. She has used her musical knowledge to enrich the lives of all the members of the church. Our young people have grown in appreciation, knowledge, and enjoyment of the best in music. Several choir members, after receiving private lessons from Mrs. Prince, followed their music studies in college.

Priority under the leadership of the new Pastor was liquidation of a fourteen year old debt hanging over the church. This was accomplished and finally a service of dedication of the church building was held April 11, 1943. Letters were read from Mr. A. J. McKelway and Mrs. Murdock MacLeod expressing their regrets at not being able to be present. Mr. McKelway was aboard the USS Essex in active service. He said in part: *I join you in every prayer of thanksgiving, every prayer for God's continued guidance and blessing and in every prayer of dedication for the church and for us all. Give my love to everyone.*

Mrs. MacLeod wrote in part: *The little girls, Dorothy and Jane and I write in the spirit of these words of Murdock MacLeod written to you on a former occasion, 'may God bless each of you and that great church as you go on to nobler achievements in His service. You will always be in my thoughts and prayers for the tie which binds us in Christian love will never be broken.'*

Mr. Prince met with many of the visiting soldiers in the church, which was open to them for recreation. The ladies parlor was used as a place to enjoy a cup of hot coffee or cookies, provided by the women of the church.

Two of the church's strongest benefactors, Leonard Tufts and S. B. Chapin, died in the year 1945. A memorial plaque was placed in the narthex in 1946 honoring Mr. Chapin, a man of extensive church connections throughout the country. The plaque bears the inscription:

In Memoriam

Simeon Brooks Chapin

1865 - 1945

Friend of Youth & His Fellowman

A Devout Believer

In the Kingdom of God

through

The Living Church

A morning worship service in May 1947 was dedicated to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tufts who were instrumental in the establishment of the church and supported it loyally throughout their lives. A marble plaque was unveiled and bears the inscription:

In Grateful Memory
Gertrude Ware Tufts
1870 - 1940
Leonard Tufts
1870 - 1945
Who Exemplified in Their Lives
The Ideals of
The Christian Church

Mr. Alex McDonald, one of the early Elders and Clerk of the Session for many years died in 1946. He was succeeded by Mr. H. A. Campbell, who served until 1967. He retired because of ill health. The pastor said of him, *He has done a fine piece of work for many years and the church is indebted to him for his contribution over this long period of time.*

Mr. Campbell was a Commissioner to the General Assembly twice. Mrs. Campbell was Presbyterial President. Dan McDonald has served as President of the Presbytery's Men. Members have served on Presbytery Committees of all sorts. The church has taken special interest in Camp Monroe. A good proportion of the membership, young and old, profited by using its facilities.

Carl Weinrich, formerly head of the Organ Department at Westminster Choir College, gave an organ recital in our church in 1955. He is internationally known for his playing of Bach. This is typical of the kinds of contributions the Community Church has made to the residents of this area.

The Princes were blessed with four children: William, John, Deborah, Elizabeth. Bill attended UNC, Chapel Hill, for one year before enlisting in the Air Force to fulfill his military obligation. He was killed in an automobile accident March 4, 1962 while stationed at St. Angelo, Texas. This was a tragedy in which all the church family shared. It was also spiritually ennobling as sympathy and friendship abounded. A Memorial Endowment was established as a tribute to his ability as a pianist. Awards from this fund will go to those dedicated to the Church's music program.

John received his BA from UNC, Chapel Hill, in 1968. Deborah, a music major, graduated from Swarthmore College in 1969. Both make their home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Elizabeth enters Senior High School this year, 1970.

The Sanctuary has been completely renovated and restyled to accommodate a divided chancel. Bright colors were introduced throughout – wall-to-wall carpeting in red, complementing the dossal hanging and choir vestments.

The Ladies Parlor was refurbished and restyled also. Fresh paint, new carpet,

comfortable chairs, lamps, pictures, fixtures and a grand piano made this a beautiful room. In 1952 it was renamed *The Gray Memorial Room* in honor of the beloved Fannie Bayley Gray, 1868-1952.

At the rear of the Gray Memorial Room three small cubbyholes were made into a large, spacious room for youth meetings. It is also beautifully furnished, carpeted and air-conditioned.

The Sanctuary was air-conditioned through the generosity of a family preferring anonymity. The Women of the Church were instrumental in air-conditioning the rest of the building. Attention has always been given to landscaping, trees, grass, shrubbery, flowers.

On October 2, 1960, the church paid tribute on World-wide Communion Sunday to the memory of former Pastor A. J. McKelway. Mrs. McKelway, son Alexander (*Sandy*), Kate and Margaret, were present. *Sandy* preached the sermon. A Memorial Tablet was unveiled after the Communion by Margaret. It was a solemn yet joyous service.

While serving the Community Church, Mr. Prince has been moderator of Presbytery, Chairman of the Commission on the Minister and his Work, Chairman of Presbytery's and Synod's Council. For the past ten years, he has been a Trustee of Davidson College.

One of our young people from the Community Church has become a fulltime Christian worker. Miss Helen Cole is now serving as Director of Christian Education in First Presbyterian Church, Orlando, Florida. She was educated at Peace College and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. She has served in Lumberton, Wilson, North Carolina, Pensacola, Florida and as Orange Presbytery DCE.



Helen Cole

Throughout the years, many church leaders have spoken from the Community Church pulpit. There were: Dr. Ernest Gordon of Princeton, Dr. K. J. Foreman of Louisville, Kentucky; Dr. R. J. Berlis of Montreal, Canada, who baptized two of the Prince children, John being a namesake. Of special note, too, is Dr. Marshall B. Wyatt who, upon retirement made his home in Pinehurst. He and Mrs. Wyatt rendered a distinctive service. Invaluable association with the Village Chapel has been maintained through successors to Dr. Cheatham, namely, Dr. A. W. Craig, Bishop Louis Melcher and Dr. Charles W. Lowry. The church has always respected and honored the local Roman Catholic Church, priests and members.

The church and public school across the street have always enjoyed a wholesome relationship. Baccalaureate services were held yearly from the beginning until 1970 when school consolidation brought about the removal of the high school. A fire destroyed the elementary school building in 1950 and for two years, four classes used church facilities.

The church in 1930 was given an endowment fund, \$7,000 for upkeep of the Memorial pipe organ. In 1967, Mrs. Charles Maddox gave \$9,000 to renovate the instrument her parents gave, and to increase the endowment \$4,000. Mrs. Eva Mason Conant, long a faithful member, died in 1962 leaving the residue of her estate to the church. Assets now amount to about \$10,000. Mr. and Mrs. John L. Given for many years lent their support to the church. In 1970 the Foundation bearing their name gave \$25,000 as endowment. Income will be used for general purposes of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nelson gave the sterling silver Communion Service in memory of their parents. This thoughtful and generous expression has enhanced the beauty and meaning of the heart of Christian worship.

One is tempted to name those who have rendered distinguished service throughout the years. Some families are outstanding as the second, third and even fourth generation take on the continuing ministry of the congregation. Of course, this is impossible, but their names are written in a book more important than this one.

The climax of fifty years was the completion of a new manse next to the church. Pinehurst, Inc., with customary generosity, donated the lot. Within two years from the date the proposal was set forth, the beautiful, spacious home was constructed and occupied. Within another year, with sale of the old manse and completion of pledges, it should be paid for. Construction was almost entirely due to the efforts of the congregation: contractors, plumbers, heating and air-conditioning technicians, brick-masons, electricians, painters, interior decorators, landscape artists, all came from the membership. Their work is a fine example of ability and dedication.

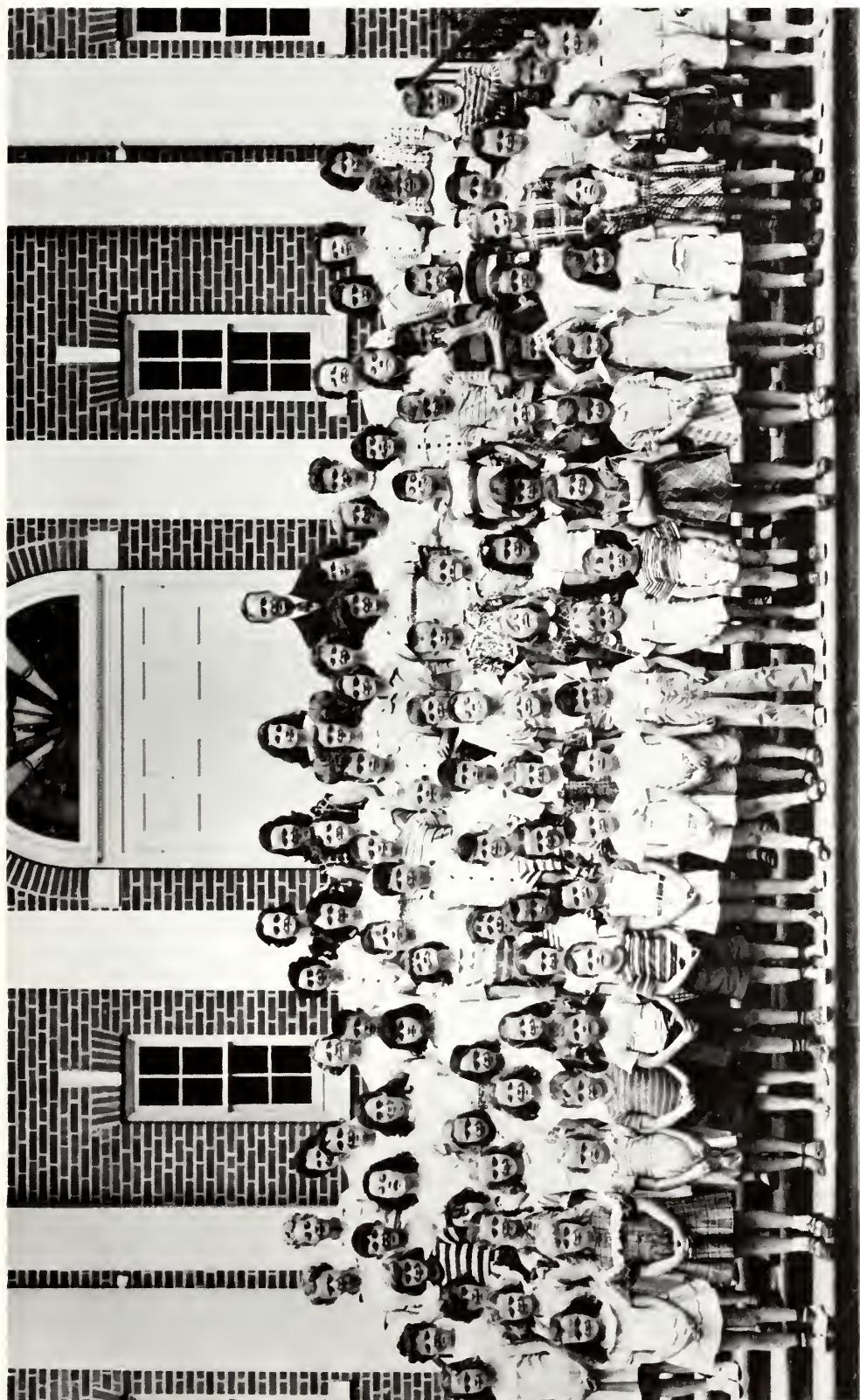
Things are not as they were fifty years ago. Christian discipleship is a moving, expanding, growing experience. We are grateful for our heritage. We hope and pray that our efforts to follow our Lord Jesus Christ have been profitable in spiritual things, and will be of some benefit to those who come after us.



The Rev. Douglas Glasspool
Resident from 1941 - 1948
Active in church, Sunday School; substitute organist for several months.



Sunday School – 1950
J. G. Gilbert, left front, superintendent.



Bible School – 1952.



Past Presidents of the Women of the Church – 1953.



Cherub Choir – 1963.



Caroller Choir – 1963.



New Manse – 1970.



